Department of Historic Resources Reconnaissance Level Survey

Accomack DHR Id#: 001-0027-0110

Resource Identification

WFF # X-065 Turret Camera Tracking Station #5 Property Name(s):

{Historic/Current}

Station #1 {Historic}

Property Date: 1951

Address(s): Island Road {Current}

County/Independent City: Accomack Vicinity of: Chincoteague State, Zip:Virginia 23337

USGS Quad Name: WALLOPS ISLAND

Surrounding area: Rural

National Register Eligibility Status

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Property has not been evaluated

Resource Description

Ownership Status: Public - Federal

Acreage: 0.5

Primary Resource Exterior Componant Description:

Comp Type/Form Component Material **Material Treatment**

Chimneys Chimneys - None Foundation Foundation - Slab Concrete Foundation - Poured

Porch Porch - Deck Wood

Roof Roof - Flat Aluminum Roof - Original Replaced

Structural System Structural System - Masonry Concrete

Site Description: Located on the east side of Island Road on Wallops Island, adjacent to the modern seawall.

WUZIT Count:

Historic? No. **Wuzit Types** Historic Air-Related

NR Resource Count:

Individual Resource Information

W<u>UZIT</u>: Air-Related

Accessed? No 1951 {Owner/written data} Est. Date of Construction: Not accessible

Primary Resource? Number of Stories: 1.0 Architectural Style: Other Condition: Good Interior Plan Type: One-room Threats to Resource: None Known

Description: The one-story, square-shaped concrete building has a poured concrete slab foundation and a flat roof, covered with aluminum sheeting, that overhangs slightly on all four sides. A modern metal hemispherical dome, set on a metal drum with rotating collar, sits on the roof of the building. The concrete slab extends out from under the building to the south; the gentle slope of the site necessitates concrete pier support for the slab under the south end. The concrete sides of the building have been incised with two horizontal grooves; the center panel created by the lines is slightly recessed from the surrounding two. On the south elevation, there is a single steel replacement door with fixed pane window. The west side has a single opening containing a portable air conditioning unit. A modern, raised wood deck provides access from the end of the drive to the concrete pad on the south side. An exterior set of replacement wood stairs provides access from the wood deck to the roof, which is encircled with wood posts and railings. A rectangular concrete pad, with a ramp that slopes down toward the south, abuts the northwest corner of the building.

Cemetery Information

Bridge Information

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National Register Eligibility Information

Historic Context(s):	Technology/Engineering		
Historic Time Period(s):	S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)		

Significance Statement:

This one-story building was built in 1951 by the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA) and was part of some of the first NACA construction efforts on Wallops Island. The building is identical to Tracking Camera Turret with Dome (001-0027-0122, WFF # Z-035) located to the south. The two stations, originally identified as Station 1 (WFF # X-065) and Station 2 (WFF # Z-035) were used as camera stations/observation platforms from which launches that took place in the area between the two buildings could be observed and recorded. Located on the east side of Island Road, adjacent to the sea wall, the building is now part of the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF). A small drive provides access to the site off Island Road, near the intersection with the road to the causeway.

The building is representative of a Technology/Engineering resource type built at the beginning of the New Dominion Period (1945 – present) period. The building was constructed as a component of a rocket research facility operated by the Pilotless Aircraft Research Station (PARS) under the direction of NACA from 1946 to 1958. Until becoming part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, PARS functioned as a rocket research facility that continually refined its capacity to collect aeronautic and scientific data through improvements in radar tracking, radio telemetry, and photographic techniques that provided significant data for the development of Cold War missile technology and manned spaceflight during the Space Race.

The Turret Camera Tracking Station #5 has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

The resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D. As a secondary resource the resource does not by itself sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with events in order to be eligible under Criterion A, nor does it sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with a person in order to be eligible under Criterion B. The resource retains its integrity but as a secondary resource of common design and materials, the resource is not eligible under Criterion C as it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. This property does not have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory under Criterion D.

Bibliographic Documentation

Reference #: 1	
Bibliographic RecordType:	Book
Author:	Joseph Adams Shortal
Citation Abbreviation:	
Notes:	Shortal, Joseph Adams. "A New Dimension—Wallops Island Flight Test Range: The First
	Fifteen Years." National Aeronautics and Space Administration Scientific and Technical
	Information Office: 1978.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

Department of Historic Resources Reconnaissance Level Survey

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Medium	Depository ID #	Photo Depository	Date	File Name
35mm B&W	21542	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 17-20

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event #1,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

 Date:
 2004/07/99

 Organization or Person:
 URS Group

 VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:
 2003-0571

Gaithersburg, MD 20878

CRM Event #2,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

Date:2003/08/08Organization or Person:URS GroupVDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:2003-0571

Bethesda, MD 20814